

THE MILITARY MONITOR,

AND

AMERICAN REGISTER.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD OUR END."

Vol. I.]

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1813.

[No. 30.]

THE MILITARY MONITOR,

AND

AMERICAN REGISTER,

By T. O'CONNOR,

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Official.

Copy of a letter from Brigadier General James Winchester, to the Secretary at War.

Fort George, Upper Canada,
11th Feb. 1813.

SIR—On the 23d ultimo, I had the honor of communicating to your Excellency the result of the action at Frenchtown, on the river Raisin, of the preceding day. I have it now in my power to transmit to you a more detailed account of that transaction, together with a more minute statement of our loss. A list of the killed, wounded and missing, is here with enclosed. The attack upon our camp was commenced about 6 o'clock in the morning by a heavy fire of small arms, together with the discharge of six pieces of artillery, directed immediately at our lines, and the houses and temporary breast-work, from behind which a portion of our troops were engaged with the enemy. Early in the action, a charge was made by the assailants; but the fire from our lines was so intense that they were quickly compelled to retire.

In this charge the 41st regiment of British regulars principally suffered, their loss during the charge, and in the subsequent engagement, being very considerable. Out of three hundred of these troops about thirty fell dead upon the field, and ninety or an hun-

dred wounded were removed from the ground.

It is impossible to state with any degree of accuracy, the number of Canadian militia and Indians, which was either killed or wounded during the engagement; it could however, not have been small, receiving for 3 or 4 hours the constant fire of our musquetry and riflemen, from the breast work under which they were formed. The action had endured about a quarter of an hour, when the right division of our troops, who were less secured by a breast work and exposed to a heavy fire from a body of Indians and militia, who had possessed themselves of some out houses within their reach, were obliged to retreat from their lines in the encampment, for the purpose of occupying ground less exposed. This retreat being discovered by the enemy, the whole Indian force, together with a portion of the militia, bore down upon them with redoubled violence, and prevented by their superiority of numbers and the severity of their fire the practicability of ever again forming this portion of our troops in order of battle. It was from this division that our principal loss was sustained, few indeed having escaped. Every effort was in vain employed to form them into some order of action, as affording the only means of either repelling the pursuers, or regaining the temporary breast-work from behind which the remainder part of our troops still gallantly defended themselves; but every exertion was in vain employed and the very few who survived of the party surrendered as prisoners to the enemy.

Our loss in this action will be ascertained by the list herewith enclosed. Among the killed I have to lament several brave and valuable officers, some of whom had distinguished themselves in the action of the evening of the 18th. and fell on the 22d while unyieldingly

engaged in rallying the troops, who retreated in disorder from the lines. Among those, the loss of Col. John Allen and Major Elijah M'Clanahan is to be particularly regretted, as also Captain John H. Woolfolk, one of my Aids de camp; their exertions were unsuccessful, notwithstanding every possible exertion was employed; they bravely fell in the discharge of their respective duties. While I regret the fate of those who fell upon this occasion, I should do injustice to pass over, without notice, the few partakers in their danger, who were fortunate to survive them. To Lieut. Col. William Lewis, who commanded on the 18th., and to Capt. James Overton, my Aid de camp who attended my person on the field, my thanks are particularly due, for their prompt and willing exertion during every period of the conflict. To the officers and soldiers who bravely maintained their ground in the temporary fortification, too much praise cannot be bestowed. Assailed by numbers greatly superior, supported by six pieces of artillery constantly employed, they gallantly defended with small arms alone, for near four hours of battle. No troops ever behaved with more cool and determined bravery; from the commanding officer down to the private soldier there was scarce a single abandonment of duty; and at the last, when their ammunition was nearly exhausted, and surrounded by the enemy greatly superior in number and in the means of war, surrendered with a reluctance rarely to be found upon similar occasions. The officers commanding the breast work, and who deserve particular notice, if distinction could easily be drawn, were Majors Benj Graves and George Madison; Capts Hightower, Hart, Williams, Choliar, Subree, Hamilton, Keleby, Bledsoe, Ballard and James; Brigade Maj James Gerrard, Adjutant

John M'Calla, and Quarter-Master Pollard Kean; they defended themselves to the last with great gallantry, and merit my warmest gratitude, as well as the highest praise of their country.

With sentiments of the highest respect, I am sir, your obedient servant;

J. WINCHESTER,

Brigadier General U. S. Army.

*The Hon. the Secretary at War,
Washington City, U. S.*

Abstract of the killed, wounded and missing in the action at Frenchtown on the River Raisin, 22nd of January 1813.

17th Regiment of United States Infantry.

Killed and missing—1 Regimental Surgeon, 2 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 2 Ensigns, 112 non-commissioned officers and privates.

Wounded—

1st Regiment Kentucky Militia.

Killed and missing—1 Major, 1 Captain, 1 Surgeons Mate, 1 Ensign, 26 non-commissioned officers and privates.

Wounded—1 Ensign, 5 privates.

1st Rifle Regiment Kentucky Militia.

Killed and missing—1 lieut. col. 1 Regimental surgeon, 4 captains, 1 ensign, 154 non-commissioned officers and privates.

Wounded—2 ensigns, 6 privates.

5th Regiment Kentucky Militia.

Killed and missing—1 Major, 1 capt. 1 lieut. 73 non-commissioned officers and privates.

Wounded—1 sergeant, 3 corporals, 7 privates.

P. S. The wounded are included in the list of prisoners forwarded.

JAMES GARRARD, Jun.

Brigade Inspector.

An abstract of prisoners captured in the action on the River Raisin, the 22nd January 1813.

17th United States Regiment Infantry.

1 captain, 2 lieuts. 3 ensigns, 54 non-commissioned officers and privates.

1st regiment Kentucky Volunteer militia.

2 Captains, 1 Lieut. 1 ensign, 104 non-commissioned officers and privates.

1st Rifle Regiment Kentucky Volunteer Militia.

1 Major, 2 captains, 4 ensigns, 133 non-commissioned officers and privates

5th Regt. Kentucky Volunteer Militia.

1 Lt. Col. 3 capt. 3 Lts. 4 Ensigns, 189 non-commissioned officers and privates.

Staff of the 5th Regiment.

1 Adjutant, 1 quarter master, 1 regimental surgeon, 1 surgeons mate.

2d Regt. Kentucky Volunteer Militia.

1 Captain, 20 privates.

Brigade Staff.

1 Brig. Gen. 1 brig inspector, 1 aid de camp Lieut. 17th U. States regiment.

JAMES GARRARD.

Brigade Inspector.

A BILL

To prohibit the use of licences or passes issued under the authority of any foreign government.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every vessel belonging wholly or in part to a citizen or citizens, inhabitant or inhabitants of the U. States,

or the territories thereof, which shall be found in the waters within the jurisdiction of the United States, having or using in any manner whatever a licence or pass, or any paper or instrument of writing purporting to be a licence or pass, issued by the authority of any foreign government, or by any person acting by or under the authority of any foreign government, shall be, and every such vessel is hereby forfeited, together with the cargo, to any person or persons who shall seize the same, and shall prove before any court of the United States, or the territories thereof, having competent jurisdiction, the fact that such vessel had, or was, at the time of seizure, in the use of a licence or pass, or any paper or instrument of writing, purporting to be a licence or pass issued by the authority of any foreign government, or by any person acting by or under the authority of any foreign government.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the commanders of the public and private armed ships or vessels of the United States to stop and examine any ship or vessel of the United States, or the territories thereof, on the high sea, which there may be any reason to suspect is sailing under the protection of or using a licence or pass, or any paper or instrument of writing purporting to be a license or pass issued by the authority of any foreign government, or by any person acting by or under the authority of any foreign government; and if upon examination it shall appear that such ship or vessel is sailing under the protection of, or using a licence or pass, or any paper or instrument of writing purporting to be a licence or pass, issued by the authority of any foreign government, or by any person acting by or under the authority of any foreign government, it shall be the duty of the commander of such public or private armed ship or vessel to seize every such ship or vessel, and send the same to any port in the United States or the territories thereof; and every such ship or vessel found thus sailing under the protection of, or using a licence or pass, or any paper or instrument of writing purporting to be a licence or pass issued by the authority of any foreign government, or by any person acting by or under the authority of any foreign government, shall, upon due proof thereof, on a prosecution or libel before any court of the United States or the territories thereof, having competent jurisdiction, be condemned and together with the cargo forfeited to the sole use and behoof of the officers and crew of such public or private armed ship or vessel of the U-

nited States; and all forfeitures which may be recovered in pursuance of this section, in consequence of any seizure made by the commander of any public or private armed ship or vessel of the United States, shall be distributed according to the rules prescribed by the act, entitled "An act for the government of the navy of the United States."

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That no vessel owned wholly or in part by any citizen or citizens, inhabitant of the United States, bound from any port within the United States or the authorities thereof, to a port of any foreign nation in amity with the United States, shall receive a clearance, unless the owner or owners, being or residing at the port from which his, her or their vessel shall depart, shall severally, solemnly, truly, and sincerely swear, or affirm, that the vessel (insert the denomination and name of the vessel) of which he or she is the owner or part owner, has not on board, nor shall such vessel of which he or she is the owner or part owner be, during her voyage or absence from the United States, in any manner whatever in the use or under the protection of a licence or pass, or any paper or instrument of writing purporting to be a licence or pass, issued by the authority of any foreign government, or by any person or persons acting under the authority of any foreign government; and the master or commander, and the supercargo (if there be one) of every such vessel, as likewise freightor or freightors thereof, if such freightor or freightors be or reside at the port from which such vessel shall depart, shall severally be, and is hereby required previously to obtaining a clearance, to make oath or affirmation in manner aforesaid, mutatis, mutandis. And should any person who shall be and is hereby required to make oath or affirmation, swear or affirm, falsely, such person shall, on indictment conviction thereof, be liable to the same pains and penalties prescribed for persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury, and shall be forever afterwards deprived of the benefit of having any credit for the payment of duties on the importation of goods, wares or merchandize into the United States or the territories thereof, and also of the privilege of owing or navigating any vessel under the laws of the U. States.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That any citizen or inhabitant of the United States or the territories thereof, who shall accept, take, purchase, or use, either directly or indirectly, or suffer his or her agent or agents, factor or factors, to accept, take, purchase, or use, directly or indirectly, a licence or pass, or any

paper or instrument of writing purporting to be a licence or pass, for the protection of his or her vessel on the high seas or elsewhere, such citizen or inhabitant and very person who shall assist in violating the provisions of this section, shall, upon conviction, be adjudged guilty of a high misdemeanor, and fined a sum by the court before which conviction is had not exceeding two thousand dollars nor less than five hundred dollars, and be imprisoned a term not exceeding three months nor less than one month, and be also deprived of the benefit of having ever afterwards any credit for the payment of duties on the importation of any goods, wares or merchandise into the United States or the territories thereof.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That any person who shall, within the jurisdiction of the United States, offer to sell or give away a licence, or pass, or any paper or instrument of writing purporting to be a licence or pass, issued by any foreign government, or by any person acting by or under the authority of any foreign government, for the purpose of securing against seizure or capture any vessel entitled to or wearing the flag of the United States, while navigating the high seas or elsewhere, such person shall on conviction be adjudged guilty of a high misdemeanor, and fined a sum before the court before which conviction is had not exceeding three thousand dollars nor less than one thousand dollars, and imprisoned a term not exceeding three months nor less than one month, and be also deprived of the benefit of having ever afterwards any credit for the payment of duties on the importation of goods, wares or merchandise into the United States or the territories thereof.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That nothing contained in this act shall so be construed as to prevent the acceptance or use of a passport, or any other paper, which shall be authorised by the provisions of any treaty existing between the United States and any foreign government, or by the general usages of war.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That every ship or vessel belonging wholly or in part to a citizen or citizens, inhabitant or inhabitants of the United States, which shall depart or clear out from any port within the jurisdiction of the United States, after the passage of this act, shall be subject to the operation of the same; and that every ship or vessel owned as aforesaid, if the same be in any part of Europe, or on the western coast of America, at the passage of this act, after the first day of June next, and if to the east of the Cape of Good Hope, after the first day of October next, shall,

in like manner, be subject to the operation of this act: Provided however.—That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to arrest or stay any prosecution or judicial proceeding now pending in any court of the United States or the territories, instituted against any citizen or inhabitant of the United States, for using, or against a ship or vessel belonging wholly or in part to any citizen or citizens, inhabitant or inhabitants of the United States, for sailing under the protection of a licence or pass, issued by the authority of the government of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, or by any person or persons acting under the authority of the same.

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

No. 2.

If distinctions, other than those of WHIG and TORY, be admitted, then we will have a species of non-descripts, whose residence will be a home to every vacillating politician; and, under whose banner, will be ranged every masked enemy, every designing knave, and every neutral character, who, wrapping up all his patriotism in a love of self, forgets or disowns his obligations to society.

It is painful to observe the insidious, though indirect, efforts of the agents and friends of Britain to serve the cause of their party. If an army is to be raised, it is asked, who will enlist without a certainty of being paid? If a loan is to be negotiated, who will lend on such security? if taxes be proposed, the country can't bear them; if a frigate should be taken, the Tory, is the first to discover that the British frigate had a rotten mast or a sickly crew.

It may be also observed that Tories are ever endeavouring to excite the greatest contempt for the general government, and labouring to dissolve that union of sentiment and action which in times of danger, should unite the governor and the governed, for the common safety of all. "There is no man wise at all hours." I am not inclined to pronounce or to think our chief magistrate infallible, but I would overlook small errors, rather than impede the grand motion. I would indeed correct even the smallest error that might injure the country, but I would not magnify it by misrepresentation; and I would not proclaim it aloud to the enemy; I would not, as some Tories have done, endeavour, by carping at every act of the general government, to bring the chief magistrate into contempt and thus to dissolve the tie between him and his constituents. This would be toryism in-

deed. Let no man stare; I allude to no individual—I produce, it is true, the tory-cap, but I place it on no particular head—If there be an individual who wishes for the distinguished honor of such a badge, let him wear it; but the salvation of the country requires that every man should choose his station; and be *for us or against us*. I will occasionally notice the general traits of toryism, and endeavour to distinguish it from federalism as well as from democracy. *One of yourselves.*

The Military Monitor.

NEW-YORK,

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 22, 1813.

Subscriptions will be received by the following

Gentlemen, who have kindly offered to act as agents to the MILITARY MONITOR.

Mr. John Binns, Philadelphia,
Editor of the Delaware Republican, Wilmington, D.

Editor of the American, Baltimore,
Mr. Joseph Milligan, Georgetown, Colum.

Mr. Wm. F. Gray, Fredericksburg, Va.

Editor of the Virginia Argus, Richmond, do.

Editor of the Intelligencer, Petersburg, do.

Mr. James O'Connor, Norfolk, do.

Mr. John Hoff, Charleston, S. C.

Editor of the Pennsylvania Republican, Harrisburg, P.

Editor of the Intelligencer, Lancaster, P.

Orders for PRINTING Military Blanks: Lawyers' Blanks; Justices' Blanks; Books; Pamphlets; Hand-Bills; Cards, &c. with which we may be favored, either in the English, French, Spanish or Portuguese languages, will be expeditiously attended to, and on moderate terms.

Orders for the MILITARY MONITOR, will be received at the PRINTING OFFICE, No. 6, Church-st. rear of St. Paul's Church.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A part of the Essay signed "RUPERT," which should follow that contained in our 28th Number, has been mislaid—we will thank RUPERT to supply us with another copy of it. "AMICUS" shall appear in our next.

In compliance with the request of two subscribers, we deviate from our usual track, by giving in full the copy of a BILL introduced into the late congress, but which, owing to the advanced stage of the session, was not finally acted on. We believe, as a retaliatory measure, it would prove useful, and it is probable a future congress will consider some measure, embracing its principles, as indispensable, in case the war should be continued.

At the commencement of the war, when it was expected that the American frigates would strike to British sloops of war, our navy was ridiculed, by British editors, as "Fire-built frigates, cock-boats &c." how changed is language now, when it is ascertained that British vessels cannot maintain themselves against the Americans, even when the advan-

rage as to men and guns, is on the side of the British, our "fir-built frigates" are discovered to be "ships of the line in disguise" should the war continue until we can have a few seventy fours, I know not how the British editor will describe them, unless, borrowing an American name, he would call them "Mammoths."

APOLOGY.—The *Little Belt* struck her colors, because she was too little.

The *Gurrierre* struck, because she had a rotten mast—

The *Macedonian* struck, because she was not prepared for action, and did not expect an American frigate so far from home.

The *Frolic* struck, because her spars were on deck instead of being in their proper places.

The *Java* struck, be-be-be-cause, —because—"wait, sir, I am in a hurry, and must go to hear the news by the British Packet just arrived from England via Halifax; I will see you tomorrow" *exit*, "muttering damn the *Java* and the *because*"

PROSPECT OF PEACE.—In a former number of our paper, we hazarded the opinion, that the war would be of short duration, but this opinion was founded on the belief, that the people would be virtuous, and, of course, unanimous in support of their country. If we have not prophesied right, we must attribute our mistake in part, to a want of that general concurrence in support of the law and government, which we believed a state of war and danger would produce.

It is asserted that the Emperor of Russia has lately offered his mediation in order to a settlement of the differences between the U. States and England. There is no power in Europe whose mediation ought to be more influential than that of Russia. The Russian Emperor is the ally of England; and, of all the powers in Europe, the most friendly to the United S. We cannot, therefore, but hope, that peace with England will be the result of the Russian mediation, provided the internal opposition to our own government be discontinued. If, however, a British-anti-American party will continue to distract the measures of the general government, we shall be less sanguine in our expectations of peace, because England will not be willingly just. From her fears we may expect much; from her justice, nothing.

We must impress on our readers, that the moment of proffered conciliation is not the fit time to relax our exertions for carrying on the war. The wily enemy, who has so often deceived and gulled us, will deceive and gull us again, if he can; but he will make peace with us, *if we are true to ourselves.*

The anxious desire of the general government to be at peace with all nations has, in many instances, rendered us the dupes of British policy; and surely, it is time that, taught by experience, we should become wary. By deceiving Erskine, the British made him the instrument of deceiving the American government, and thus suspending the retaliating laws of America, then so intolerably oppressive to England. It is of no consequence to the United States, whether the deceiving of Erskine was real or apparent, nor does it belong to this nation to judge or inquire why Erskine so tacitly submitted to a treatment, which links his name with the damned conduct of a perfidious British ministry.

By suspending or repealing the orders in council at the moment when it was apparent that war must be declared by America, the British government opened a market for their manufactures then lying and likely to rot in the British ware-houses.

By granting special licences, in time of war, they received from America supplies of provisions for their armies on the continent, and, as soon as these supplies were procured in sufficient quantities, they blockaded the American ports, and refused permission even to licensed vessels to depart, although it is not improbable that British officers or agents received large sums of money as the price of such licences.

It will appear, on a whole view of British policy, that it must be extremely difficult to judge their real intentions, and it must be apparent that their policy, whatever it may be, is subject to constant variation arising out of changes in circumstances, and this without respect to principle, consistency, or honor.

The unexpected and unexampled success of our navy and private armed vessels, the possibility of our conquering Canada, the difficulty, in such an event, of supporting the West India Islands or supplying the British armies on the continent of Europe, the necessity of opening the American market to the introduction of British manufactures, and the very possible event, that even the island of Great Britain may want food: these may be causes sufficiently strong to induce Great Britain to accede to peace on the only terms which the American government can listen to.—But these terms will be unpleasant and unprofitable to England; and we must not expect peace on reasonable or just terms, we must not expect peace at all *unless we are true to ourselves.*

A moment's reflection on the sacrifice will show the great reluctance with which she will accede to the demands of America.

The impressment of Americans, on the high seas, seems to be the chief perhaps the only positive obstruction to peace. Let this point be analysed. The practice of impressing Americans, from American shipping, has commenced from the moment when America became a nation; it was impossible for an independent nation to submit tacitly to such a violation of national right; and the American government early noticed and remonstrated against the practice, but, in the midst of remonstrance, treaty, and threats, the practice of impressment was continued; at length war was declared by the United States against Great Britain, avowedly and principally because of this violation of the rights of the American citizens.

Had the United States continued to remonstrate, there would, on her part, be no abandonment of a right, even although England should continue to transgress; and thus the right of the citizen might continue to be violated and yet the American nation not suffer positive disgrace.

But America has declared war, because her citizens have been impressed from American ships on the high seas. A return to peace, without an abandonment of this practice by the enemy, would be an actual relinquishment, on the part of America, of the rights of the citizen. The American government will not, cannot concede this point. England knows it, and we must not expect that she sincerely desires peace, until she consents to discontinue the practice of impressment. The

sacrifice of feeling and interest may be great; but that nation which was compelled, to offer an acknowledgement of the independence of the U. States, as a preliminary of one peace, may be forced to acknowledge "free trade and sailor's rights" as the preliminary of another peace.

It is here proper to inquire, who are to be considered citizens having claim to protection against impressment. They consist of those born in the United States, and those naturalized before the war: the one has a natural claim that cannot be resisted, the honor of the United States is pledged to the other. But as the right of foreigners to receive protection arises from laws made in America, the repeal of such laws, so as to prevent the naturalization or regulate the privileges of those who may hereafter become naturalized citizens, cannot become a subject of complaint against the American government.

The sacrifices which Britain must, therefore, make, are,

1. A return to their native country of all the native citizens now on board the British navy,
2. A return to their adopted country of all the naturalized American citizens now on board of the British navy.

3. A discontinuance of the practice of impressing citizens of the above descriptions

It may become a question whether a similar guarantee will be secured in favor of those foreigners who may become naturalized citizens hereafter. The United States may, without dishonour to themselves, engage not to employ or protect such citizens hereafter on board of American vessels; but, certainly Britain cannot expect or require such a concession on the part of the United States, without a reciprocal engagement on her own part.

Britain must, therefore as the price of peace, in addition to concessions already enumerated, agree, to repeal, as it respects American citizens, the law by which foreigners, voluntarily entering the British navy, become naturalized and entitled to protection, after two years service; or, she must not require any stipulations as to the exclusion of citizens of any description from protection while on board American vessels.

From this view of the subject, it must appear that England will not concede points so mortifying and disadvantageous, if she can avoid them; and we hesitate not to assert that she possesses no internal means of resisting the just claims of America. Her only hopes, if she has any, is in the indirect aid expected from her friends in America.—It depends then on ourselves to command peace, the mode is simple and easy, we re-assert it, *let us be true to ourselves, and we will have a speedy and an honorable peace.*

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

Mr. Editor,

If you think the following patriotic Anecdote worthy a place in your valuable paper, you will insert it and oblige yours &c.

A Subscriber.

A party of Gentlemen and Ladies were collected a few evenings since in a frontier town, in this state—and, among many other topics, that of the present War was introduced. A gentleman present, who professed to believe, with Mr. Pickering "that Britain had done us no essential injury," was declaiming against the war and its authors, and, in the course of his remarks, observed "that Montgomery and his comrades fell gloriously un-

der the walls of Quebec, but if any should fall in the present contest in striving to scale its walls, their names would perish with them, or be remembered only to be detested." A young lady present, proud of her country's honor and almost indignant at the sentiments she had just heard, replied, that what the gentleman had said was truly in character for a friend to the "magnanimous triple alliance" which our country was combating, but that she could with confidence assure him that if any brave Americans should fall in an attack on Quebec, their glory would shine as conspicuous as Montgomery and his heroes, & in her opinion, the only difference, if any, was simply in the syllables *on* and *re*, the one fought to *obtain*, and the others will have fought to *retain* the liberties of our Country.

Summary.

Nothing materially altering the state of things has come to our knowledge this week, except in the shape of "rumour," and this generally so doubtful, that we prefer its total exclusion, rather than deceive our readers, or trouble ourselves with "corrections" in our next number. The following particulars are all we shall venture to relate.

The proposition of the Russian minister, offering the mediation of his master in order to a settlement of the dispute between the United States and Great Britain, has been received, by Mr. Madison, most favorably; and, with that promptitude which ever evinces his eagerness for peace, he holds himself prepared to meet and accede to every proposition not inconsistent with the honor and liberties of his country and constituents. If England be equally disposed, we will have peace, but if she clings to her unjust practices, and leaves to the United States but a choice of war or degradation, Mr. Madison will not hesitate to decide, his duty will accord with his inclination; and both may be summed up the good old principle "to live free or die."

The British, whether with a view to give force to the Russian mediation, to originate some measure that might seem to justify its frustration, or to effect some project that might give hopes for the obtaining of better terms, are making a powerful show of their naval and land force. The blockading squadron off the Chesapeake and Delaware is very numerous, and the passage of vessels up the bay as far as the Potomac and a considerable distance up the Delaware, has excited considerable alarm particularly at Norfolk. In this latter place the enemy, should he attempt to land, will be opposed by at least 10,000 men, including the inhabitants who will take up arms on this particular occasion; added to this force, should be reckoned the batteries in excellent order for defence, supported by the Constellation frigate and several gun boats.

A considerable military force is said to be collecting at and near Kingston, for the purpose of invading the United States. We believe the British force is exaggerated; and we believe their object is principally defensive; it is to be hoped that both armies will not remain on the defensive.

One of the British spies has been hanged at Sacket's Harbour.

Among late arrivals is that of the privateer schooner Paul Jones, after a cruise of 3 months,

having captured several vessels valued at upwards of \$1,000,000.

The British brig Three Brothers, bound from Malta to Liverpool, with a full and valuable cargo, has been taken by the privateer Dolphin of Baltimore, and has arrived after a passage of 72 days.

Several captures have been made by the enemy, including some vessels with licences. Captain Stow, of the ship Nancy, has arrived at Norfolk, from Bermuda. The Nancy was captured on her outward bound voyage, by the British sloop of war Goree, carried into Bermuda, and condemned, the licence of Admiral Sawyer to the contrary notwithstanding. The American privateer High-flyer was captured and had arrived at Bermuda.

The Mercantile Advertiser, contains the copy of a letter from Capt. Hobson, of the ship Fair American of Baltimore, dated Cadiz, 23d Jan. stating his capture on the 9th January, by the French frigate La Gloire, and his ransom after having 1000 barrels of flour thrown over board, and receiving much other injury. The French commander said he was authorised to destroy all vessels engaged in carrying provision to the enemy of both America and France.

The past week brings nothing material under the head of

FOREIGN NEWS.

The British Editors, seem uncommonly at a loss to account for the superiority of American naval prowess, & in the midst of lamentation, pronounce some, to them, very lamentable truths. Whenever our columns will afford room, we will copy some of the British remarks.

It appears that there is a large supply of American provisions at Cadiz, Lisbon, Gibraltar and in every British port, where such is requisite. It is probable licences will be discontinued for some time or granted very partially; and the destination of those vessels that sailed lately, will very probably be altered by his Majesty's cruisers. Are we to conclude from this conduct that the enemy is to grant, retract, annul, enlarge &c. his licences, at will, and that the American is to be the blind dupe of every British artifice, however unmasked; or will the American Congress restrain the fatal effects of mercantile cupidity by preventing the use and abuse of foreign licences?

The British Government is about to cede one of their small West-India islands to the Swedes—to be a smuggling port, for every unprincipled American merchant, and also a place from whence British ships, under Swedish flags, may carry on trade with the United States. May it not be expected that the Swedish fishermen will become manufacturers of dry goods; and that the produce of the British loom and anvil will thus find a market in America? A law to exclude foreign shipping generally, will, we much suspect, be indispensably necessary, during the war.

Extracts.

There are two kinds of treason (for treason we must call them whether so defined by statute or not) against which we would guard our readers. The one is a direct comfort of the enemy; the other, a persecution of the enemy's enemy.

Among the sufferers under this kind of persecution is, as we are informed, the very res-

pectable and consistent patriot, Dr. Paul W. Houston, of Philadelphia, a gentleman who lost nearly all his property and several years of his liberty by British persecution, and who was finally banished from his native country, because he could not cease to love it, because he would not succumb to a British policy that would at best but render him a splendid slave in the midst of slavery of the most degrading kind, yes! the Doctor has been ordered to quit his country under a penalty of ten thousand pounds, not to return; yet, strange to relate, he has been denounced as a British spy; and would, it may be assumed, be banished, by his enemies, from this country also. What, it may be asked, would be the Doctor's fate, could this artifice succeed, where would he find a resting place? there is not a despotic country in Europe or on the globe where, were his merits known, he would be permitted to dwell; and there is but one free government in the world, that under which he seeks protection.

On this occasion, and at the request of a Subscriber, the following letter is copied from the New-York American Citizen of the 22 Sept. 1802. It is the production of the pen and heart of Dr. Houston. [EDITOR.]

TO THE RIGHT HON. WILLIAM PITT.

SIR.—From a country fortunately emancipated from the parental yoke of Britain—the only asylum now remaining for liberty, where the victims of oppression may learn to forget bondage, or recollect it only to enhance the blessings of freedom, from a country, even in its infancy the nurse of heroes and sages—in a word, the country of Benjamin Franklin, Washington, Jefferson, and a long catalogue of benefactors to the human race, I now address you. Here, man is privileged to speak the language of reason and truth. 'Tis no treason here to remind a man in office that he has omitted or transgressed his duty: I lay hold of this precious privilege to tell you what none of our slaves in Europe dare mutter, that you are the destroyer, the assassin of your country, and of many millions of the human species. With all the wealth and power of Europe in your hands, what use have you made of those prodigious resources? Did you ever form a single project worthy of a great and beneficent statesman, or that could command the approbation of an enlightened and honest man? You took counsel with a heart, to whose gloomy and misanthropic recess the mild sentiment of humanity never had access. A stranger even to that charming sense which unites the sexes in the bland ties of mutual love, and powerfully tends to soften the ferocity of insulated man—a stranger to genuine glory, to the laudable ambition of meriting the applause and esteem of the wise and virtuous in every age and country; the love of des-

potism centered there the motto of the tyrant, "Let them hate, but they shall tremble," left no room for the benign feelings. Like the voracious monster of the Nile, or the drunken Irish judge, whom you deputed to assassinate by the forms of the law, you could utter whining speeches in support of those rights you were going to abolish, and deplore the hardships of that slavery you were preparing to entail on your fellow citizens and on the world. Though your genius is formed for hypocrisy, the intelligent part of the community were not the dupes of your specious but hollow professions. The language, the accents of freedom, ill suited your proud, repulsive, austere character. The arrogant eye and gesture, the stiff gait, the cold reserve of a dark and plotting mind, bespoke a man fitted to preside over an *auto de fe*, or minister to the despotic folly of a Sultan. Maddened with power and riches, your flatterers have called you the "heaven born minister." We are told that Lucifer was a heaven born child, and that earth quakes, pestilence, famine, and war are from above; in that sense your flatterers may be excusable; they may be allowed to class you with those ministers of divine wrath.—If vengeance entered into the divine purposes, Providence certainly chose an able and successful instrument of ruin—a ruin which it will be well if the virtue and wisdom of all succeeding ages can repair. Parliament has indeed voted you a statue; 'tis true they have not dishonoured themselves by that puerility; a passive compliance with the most unwarrantable wishes and cravings of raging tyranny, had long branded them the profligate venal tools of every wicked minister; the willing accomplices of a corrupt and despotic court, and hardly left room for any addition to their disgrace or aggravation of their crimes.—I censure this fresh instance of their inexhaustible servility and adulation alone as superfluous. Be assured, sir, and to a mind formed like yours, 'tis flattering that your guilty fame is greatly independent of a vote of parliament, or of monuments, whether of stone or brass, you are secure of the execration and abhorrence of all good men 'Tis not in my power or in that of any man, to deprive you of their curses so laboriously, uniformly, & zealously earned what neither time nor accident, nor all the endeavours of your enemies can extinguish your just pretensions to the immortal, universal detestation which shall accompany the once honored name of Pitt down to the remotest posterity, associated with those abhorred friends who have scourged the earth like you, the

Neros, the Octavians, the Caligulas, &c. And what shall be the inscription? Let your encomiasts tell. What language shall this Colossus speak to the good people of England? Sacred to the memory of the man who, raised by popular favour, surreptitiously obtained, employed the fruit of his hypocrisy to rob the people of their dearest rights, the bulwarks of their civil and personal liberty. Behold the brazen monument of the more brazen imposter, who deprived Englishmen of the trial by jury, of the Habeas Corpus act, of the liberty of the press, and even of the use of their tongue; who crushed them by taxes, and drafted them away by hundreds of thousands to be slaughtered in a sanguinary unjust warfare. The man who gave strength and coercion for law, and the blind fury of party rage for justice.

He who found England queen of the ocean, enriched by universal commerce and a well organized system of industry, replenished with gold and silver; for gold he gave them rags, for silver outions of base metal. He sapped the foundation of her power, and consigned her to public and private bankruptcy.—As for Ireland, alas! unfortunate country of my birth, you asked for bread and he gave you the scourge. You petitioned for reform and emancipation, and he wheedled, promised, and raised hopes alternate but without satisfying one.—He sent Burk, Fitzwilliam, and large promises; but when elated to the summit of hope, on the eve as was fancied of political salvation, the instruments of concession are recalled. Camden and coercion—parliamentary phillippics, grand jury denunciations, replace them, and dash the cup of hope into their faces; and lest all those irritations and provocations to discontent should fail of their effect, a fanatical mob, encouraged by the agents of the grand imposter, are let loose on the defenceless and peaceable inhabitants, to burn, ravage, and destroy; from whose brutal and exterminating rage neither youth nor age, nor the softer sex, nor friendship, nor good neighbourhood were in safety. There was no redress or protection; the law was silent; justice slept; the magistrate shut his eyes while the poor Catholic inhabitants of the North were hunted like wild beasts; robbed and driven to exile and misery; could it be expected that unfortunate sufferers would not resent? That a people naturally brave and hardy would quietly lie down and have their throats cut and submit to destruction without the smallest effort to defend themselves? No, their resistance was expected. Ministers calculated their measures on an event clearly unavoidable,

and immediately seized the opportunity of indemnifying the sufferers. No! Government steps in to finish what the orangemen began by acts of violence and coercion, which they were pleased to call Laws.—Down comes the minister of the gracious father of his people with a budget of pains and penalties. All the Laws that protect personal freedom (civil they have none) are overturned in a moment; the country covered with Bastiles, and deluged with informers; tortures, & executioners are sent through the country in every direction, in the shape of judges, Orange jury men itinerant, new created magistrates, of the basest and most infamous character with full power and instructions to burn, rage and destroy, torture and hang with indemnity in case of exceeding their instructions. Thus miscreants, engendered in the dregs and vice of the metropolis, such as Major Sirr, Justice Godfrey, Alderman James, and Justice Drury, &c. emerged from their obscure lurking holes into consequence, become arbiters of every man's life and fortune: the trusty champions of church and state sally forth in quest of adventures, with a posse of perjured informers and assassins at their heels. Every man suspected of being suspected is dragged into prison, his property rifled. It need scarcely be mentioned that his bank notes were taken care of. Still was there no rebellion—what a disappointment! Such patience was intolerable: gun-powder acts, treasonable correspondence acts, insurrection acts, with nameless other acts of violence and vengeance had been passed ineffectually. At length the belligerent ministry throws away the scabbard, the kingdom is declared under martial law, bands of soldiers, who stiled themselves ORANGEMEN, and whose blood and rapine are let loose to prey on the country. Every family not enrolled among the exterminators are exposed to their avarice and cruelty. We need hardly add, that those Lordly soldiers, were neither very scrupulous nor delicate in the execution of their commission. If the man of the house escaped hanging, he was thrice happy to compound for a flogging, picketing, half hanging, while the miscreants gorged themselves with the family provisions, and the female felt the effects of their gallantry. At length the long wished for event took place, the people wearied with their sufferings, slew some of their oppressors. Immediately gallowses, without number, were erected on the bridges and other public places, and the lamp irons were laden with victims. The torture in every shape and cruelty is multiplied—some are whipped to death.

The abominations unutterable and without number,—the hideous acts of cannibalism! I cannot—will not enter into the soul revolting detail. Hell shall groan when the monster arrives, who, impelled by a spirit that Hell would blush to own, cut out the yet warm and trembling heart of his fellow citizen and bit it! Well but the Union was in contemplation, and it seems all those horrors were thought necessary for its accomplishment. It was judged dangerous to attempt the legislative independence of Ireland, especially in time of war, unless the Irish were divided, to preclude the possibility of their writing in defence of their best interests, and to ward off the common injury; the wound must be rendered incurable; their hands must dip deeply into each others blood; they must be employed to flog, torture, and to inflict such dignities as never admit of forgiveness or oblivion. Woe to the measures prepared and executed by such means! It must prove sooner or later the destruction of its planners and abettors. After mentioning the great scale of mischief, the petty sphere of local sub-delegated ruin will appear trifling. Instead of a statue, the Majors, I suppose, will content themselves with a plain bust, though they filled many families with mourning and despair; I was early marked by the nefarious faction on the following account.

The abuses in the police institution of odious memory became a subject of parliamentary investigation. Among others I was summoned to depose concerning a robbery on Mercer's Hospital, of which I had the care. I stated the truth, that iron railings were taken from the premises by a set of robbers, to the value of twenty-two pounds sterling; and that thirty-six of Alderman James's relatives received the public money to preserve peace and tranquility in the streets of Dublin, when they resided in the country. And the statement was admitted to be true by Alderman Rose, which shall appear on the books of the House of Commons of Ireland. The offence was treasured up to be visited on me at a convenient season. Major Sirr, empowered to commit all sorts of crimes, and indemnified from the consequences, is sent to arrest me, he took twenty-seven guineas out of my desk, and to the value of one hundred and twenty pounds sterling in plate, gold wire, books, &c. It was usual for the Major to seize bank notes and debentures as *sedition papers*! This circumstance of the Major's patriotic zeal I communicated to the Marquis Cornwallis. The Major vowed vengeance, and he prevailed against me under the aus-

pices of a government which scruples not to sacrifice the community to the passions of its vile tools, as well as to its own.—Do they hope to eradicate all the laudable and virtuous feelings of the human breast by dint of persecution and by caressing and taking to their bosom the most odious vices? the flagitious contaminated herd of prejudiced informers, spies, affidavit-men, assassins armed with the dagger, with poison and with perjury, and whose head-quarters, and sanctuary was the King's castle of Dublin. Principles thrive on persecution, and gather strength from the blood of Martyrs. I for one do not feel my attachment to the cause of humanity and of liberty abated by my suffering, but is rather increased. I hope to see the proud day when Erin's harp shall be strung to the notes of Liberty and Independence. *A Suffering Irishman.*

FROM THE AURORA.

A SKETCH.

OF THE PROGRESS OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE.

(CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.)

No. V.

Another question has been put to us, which we shall answer without ceremony or reserve.

Is the book called "*Steuben's Regulations*" such a work, as an uninformed man may look to for a proper knowledge of discipline, or a military instructor teach from?

This question may be answered very briefly, and admits of the most evident demonstration. The book of Steuben, as originally published, contains about 150 pages; of which only the first 63 pages are appropriated to discipline, all the rest appertains to one or another branch of the staff, police, and camp duties, for which ends they are as competent in relation to the duties of an arm & its staff, as the 63 pages are competent to teach a good discipline; and still out of these 63 pages, 15 are devoted exclusively to that solemn foolery called the manual exercise; so that the whole of the disciplinary part of Steuben's tract is reduced to 48 pages.

To the man who has an understanding of the subject, it would not be necessary to say more, nor even as much; but it is necessary to go into circumstances more particular, and to shew that in what it teaches it is absurd in the present state of military knowledge, that in some instances it requires that to be done which is not practicable, and which if practicable would be better adapted to break down the men in an evolution, than to bring them in with vigor and spirit at

the completion of it; further, it will be found to be deficient where it should be particular; and that what is essential is not to be found in it; and in fine that limited to the knowledge of discipline given by Steuben, no man can comprehend the movements or dispositions of any battle ancient or modern; consequently military knowledge must be sought some where else, and the government has not provided any means, either by institution or by precept, for the acquisition of other knowledge; the consequence has been that we have generals who are not competent to move a battalion on a parade without consulting a book, or memorandums in their sleeves; field officers who could not form or discipline a company, and whose appointments are not the result of their knowledge or qualifications, but of intrigues—*facts too painfully true, in which we may read the preliminary causes of some disgraceful transactions of last campaign, and in which the old adage was verified, that "when the blind lead the blind, both fall into the ditch."*

The first chapter of Steuben relates to arms; the second states in a very general and insufficient manner what officers should know. The third chapter states that the company should be formed in two ranks, the tallest men in the rear, and both ranks sized; but it does not give any instruction how this should be done and the consequence has been that instead of one uniform and simple mode, there have been twenty different modes pursued each more preposterous than another. The fifth chapter is the formation of a regiment, which would answer as well as any other, if the regiment were now organized as they then were; none of the field officers now have companies, and the regiments are constituted of more effective numbers, both officers and rank and file. The fifth chapter is the instruction of recruits, in which according to the old fashion, the commissioned officer is made a spectator, and the duty of the drill is devolved upon serjeants and corporals. The king of Prussia, who understood things better, took the command of the parade himself, and taught the elementary exercise to his new levies in person; the authority of Steuben in this particular has been fatal to military knowledge, since it furnishes an excuse for indolence and ignorance; and induces the presumption, that an officer obtains a commission only to be a looker on, and that the drudgery of the drill is an occupation beneath him, and only fit for common serjeants and corporals! Such is the mode of acting at the present hour—we are acquainted with a station at which three or four hundred

men have been assembled three or four months, and the officers and men know just as much of discipline now as when they entered their quarters—the *blind do not lead the blind* indeed; but they eat and drink and get drunk, and sleep—and that's all! They have precedent for it.

The next chapter is a mixture of good and bad, some very proper innovations on the discipline which it superceded, particularly in the rejection of the *buckram* stiffness, and the adoption of an easy unconstrained position; but the manner of performing the facings is ludicrous and unnatural, it is not adapted to military action, which all parts of discipline, however minute, should be; it is calculated, and badly too, for a smooth ground and a level parade.

A man turning like a whirlegig on one or other of his heels, might answer at a dancing shop or on a theatre; but in the presence of an enemy in military motion, every man will raise his foot when he means to move; and what he must do in action, he ought to be taught to do well in the drill. The method of facing is therefore preposterous, and unfit to be adhered to by any man who possesses common sense.

The pace is very judiciously and naturally determined at 24 inches, under all circumstances *slow* or *quick* time; the slowest pace he determines at *about* 75 in a minute, and *quick* time at 120 in a minute. It is obvious that Steuben, by the determination of the number and length of the pace; intended that the *rapid movement* of the *Prussian discipline* of which he was an *élève*, should be the established pace; but it is very evident through whatever cause, that he failed in establishing it; either through the want of musical ears, or ideas, or inattention or misapprehension of his principles, since the most prevailing marches in our military service and militia hitherto have been in the time of melancholy dirges, more fit for funerals than to rouse the spirit, or warm the body for action. *Slow movements* should never be permitted in *drills*, nor in *evolutions*; they may be permitted in the parades of guards or inspection, and even then not without the relief of gay and heart awakening airs.

The old *oblique step* is one of those artificial contrivances contrary to nature and repugnant to a good discipline; against which we protest; and what is worst of all, that Steuben's tract says—“*it must be practised both in quick and common time.*” Now, it requires only for any three men to attempt the motion as directed with the feet, and it will be found, even at the slow time of 30 paces

a minute, an awkward and laborous operation—the following are the words;

“In marching obliquely to the right, the soldier steps obliquely with the right foot, bringing up the left, and placing the heel (of the left) directly before the toes of the right foot, and the contrary when marching to the left: *but mark!* at the same time observing to keep the *shoulders square* to the front, especially that the shoulder opposed to the side they march to *does not project*, and that the *files keep close.*”

This crossing of the feet and squaring of the shoulders is preposterous—in a movement of 120 paces in a minute one half of the rank on any rough ground, would tumble over the other; with the greatest ease it would be excessively laborious on the smoothest garrison parade; in the field it is utterly impracticable.—For this awkward method, the modern discipline has substituted a simple and natural and let us add, an elegant and happy method: instead of twisting the hips and feet in one direction, and presenting the shoulders in a state of distortion above; the modern method by a *half or quarter facing of each file* towards the point to which they are to move, leaves the limbs free and easy, and the coherency and dressing of the rank to the front is accurately maintained by the right or left shoulder of each file falling behind the opposite shoulder of its leading file, and each file stepping clear of that in its front, the movement is performed with the same precision as if in column or battalion moving perpendicular, and may be continued for the same length of time as the movement in column.

There is another and more important, because more comprehensive objection to the chapter, that is, the direction to teach each *recruit singly*. This is a pernicious principle, because it goes to waste time without any advantage, and proposes to accomplish by a tedious detail, what may be better accomplished, and in shorter time, by the assemblage of a number of recruits together, where the same instruction which is given to one, will equally serve the many; and where that *habit of acting together, which is the true end of all discipline*, is at once entered upon, and every day rendered familiar to eyes and ears, and by *muscular practice*. The book of Steuben, therefore, were it sufficient in every other respect, should be exploded for this alone; as experience has proved (and we speak from practice, not mere theory) that it is much more easy to teach 50 or 100 recruits at a time, than to teach a single recruit; and that in fact the 100 will learn in less time, and understand what they learn better in the same time; than one man upon whom the same pains had been bestowed.

JOHN BULL IN A RAGE.

An American merchant, under date of *Ex-verpool*, 7th Jan, writes thus to his partner in Boston.

“The news of the capture of the *Ma-cedonian* has enraged John Bull without measure. You will see by the papers I send you, that they are filled with nothing else this week past. The sapient editors here, discovered that all American frigates are ships of the line, and although they cannot find out that they carry more than 54 guns; still they insist upon it they are 74's. I hope to God, our little navy will always conduct in such a manner, that 54 guns may impress the enemy with as much respect as a 74 of any nation. The highest compliment yet paid them, is a remark in the *Courier*, that it should be considered “no disgrace for the largest British frigate to shun an engagement with these dangerous non-descripts.”

PAINTING.—Application has been made to an eminent Artist of this City, for an Historical Painting, to represent the *British Generals Tecumseh and Brock, butchering and scalping the American women and children and wounded prisoners*. The sketch for the design is highly spoken of, it will prove proper record of British humanity. No subject could be better chosen, or more certain to reward the Genius of the Pencil. It is said that one thousand dollars is insured to the Artist, should he prefer that sum, to a Public Exhibition of the Picture; we are inclined to believe it would produce a considerable revenue to the possessor for a long time to come. If our Countryman Mr. WEST, could be prevailed on to execute such a work, it would immortalize his fame. We confidently hope this field will not remain unoccupied. Painting and Patriotism are allied; they dwell together.

Chillicothe, Feb. 18.

Five companies of Ohio troops, completely equipped, marched from Cincinnati for Dayton. From the information we have obtained, there remains no doubt, but that Harrison possesses the entire confidence of the men of every description, under his command. And there is little doubt of the Ohio and Kentucky troops, whose term of service had expired, having again volunteered.

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